

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
September 17, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 12 noon, at the Young Peoples Community Center, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Chairwoman Melissa Komar called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Melissa Komar
Charles Koren
Paul Kundrod
Debra Orner
Diane Waksmunski

ABSENT

Scott Eberhart
Heather McCloskey
Ron Rovansek
Shawn Veneskey

STAFF

Mark Lazzari
Jacob Zerby
Shanna Sosko
Colleen Bukowski

GUESTS

Emily Marines, WJAC-TV

There being no changes to the agenda, Ms. Komar called for continuation of the meeting as per posted agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered at this meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Kundrod, seconded by Ms. Waksmunski, the minutes of the August 20, 2026 meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Executive Director presented the September Treasurer's Report, noting three software subscriptions and travel reimbursement expenditures listed for payment approval. Commission members present reviewed the report and offered no comments or questions on the report. On a motion by Ms. Waksmunski, seconded by Dr. Koren, the September Financial Statement was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

STATUS REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Lazzari commented on continued staff attendance at various meetings/events, i.e., Cambria & Somerset Community Health & Human Services Summit; PA House Communications & Technology Committee informational hearing on broadband affordability; 2026 Western PA Trails and Greenways Summit; and Cambria County Library Renovation Ribbon Cutting. He noted that staff participation in these types of local and regionally significant meetings/events provide opportunities to better understand community needs and fosters planning considerations with regard to community health and

wellness; rural community challenges, i.e., broadband access/affordability; recreational trails and greenways initiatives; and promotion of community resources.

West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Sosko reported that development of the West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan is progressing as planned, with a working group meeting scheduled within the upcoming two weeks. She explained that the working group, comprised of CCPC staff, consultant staff, and municipal representatives, will provide final input for inclusion in the draft document. Ms. Sosko and Mr. Lazzari both commented that details of the adoption process are being finalized, and adoption of the plan by the CCPC and each individual participating municipality is anticipated to be completed in January, 2027. Noting the recent announcement of an Aldi grocery store locating in the Westwood Plaza, Mr. Lazzari commented that a need for additional grocery store facilities was identified in the initial public input stages of the West Hills Comprehensive Plan. He also noted that collaboration efforts with Lower Yoder Township and the Lyter Drive Business Association have focused on advancing pedestrian access and traffic flow improvements to the Westwood Plaza.

Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan

Mr. Lazzari reported that the consultant has completed a draft of the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan and the final document will also reflect information learned through CamTran's Local Match Funding Study. He indicated that both transit-related reports will be completed by the end of this year.

Johnstown Housing Authority (JHA) - West End Choice Neighborhood Plan

Mr. Lazzari reported that the draft West End Choice Neighborhood Plan has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for review and comment. He stated that a timeline has been established for completion of an Environmental Assessment and submission of the PA Historical and Museum Commission Environmental Review on the Choice Neighborhoods Early Action Project.

County Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan

Noting that the County Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan will focus on municipal on-road bicycling and pedestrian networks, Ms. Sosko apprised the members that organization of a steering committee is being finalized. She explained that the committee, which will include representatives from health and wellness, recreation, and municipal organizations, will provide input into the development of the plan. She also commented that Commission staff has discussed the inclusion of an educational component to the plan designed to address the safety issue of e-bikes and e-scooters on local roadways. In response to an inquiry from Dr. Koren, Mr. Lazzari stated that Commission staff are participating with the Central Cambria School District on their pedestrian/bike pathways project to ensure safe connections between school facilities and surrounding neighborhoods.

Stackhouse Park Master Plan

The Executive Director stated that preparation of the Stackhouse Park Master Site Development Plan has been initiated, with completion of the

document slated for December, 2026. Ms. Komar suggested that Mr. Lazzari reach out to the Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission so that the CCPC can be represented and provide input regarding development of the Master Plan for The Ridge property.

Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Zerby reported that all municipalities have been contacted requesting submission of candidate projects for inclusion on the County's Twelve-Year Highway and Bridge Program update. He noted his continued outreach to municipal officials via e-mail, telephone, and in-person meetings encouraging project submissions. He noted that although not all local transportation and bridge projects will qualify for funding consideration through this program, Commission staff will gain a better understanding of municipal transportation improvement needs and can better assist in suggesting other potential funding sources for these projects.

Mr. Zerby reported that in addition to his continued participation in working group meetings for the 2027-2029 Unified Planning Work Program, staff has requested that funds remaining in the 2025-2026 UPWP be transferred to the 2026-2027 planning year.

County Bridge Maintenance Program

The Transportation Planner commented that staff has initiated development of a five-year Bridge Maintenance Plan which will assist in prioritizing projects that will extend bridge service life and support long-term maintenance needs. He indicated that upon completion, the scope, budget, and timeline will be presented to the County Commissioners for their input and consideration.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEM

CamTran - Local Match Funding Study

Mr. Lazzari stated that weekly meetings with CCPC staff, CamTran staff, and consultant representatives have been very productive. Noting that a matrix of several funding alternatives has been developed by the consultant team, Mr. Lazzari indicated that three of the most viable options for implementation and funding feasibility have been identified. Mr. Zerby noted that a second municipal officials meeting has been scheduled for October 6, 2026.

Board Term Status/Reappointments

The Executive Director noted that the appointment terms for three current Board Members will expire on December 31st of this year. Commenting that appointments rest with the County Commissioners, Mr. Lazzari stated that all three members, Melissa Komar, Paul Kundrod, and Debra Orner, have expressed interest in continuing to serve on the CCPC Board.

Portage Borough and South Fork Borough Coordination

Mr. Lazzari reported that the Portage Borough Manager has requested technical assistance from Commission staff with regard to the planned update of the Borough's Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and Zoning Map. He noted that the Borough's engineer has submitted a PA DCED Municipal Assistance Program application to assist in the funding of this endeavor. Mr. Zerby noted that South Fork Borough officials have also

requested a meeting with CCPC staff to discuss transportation needs, code enforcement issues, and planning and zoning needs of the Borough.

Annual Audit

Mr. Lazzari mentioned that the July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 has been initiated by BarnesSaly & Company P.C., Certified Public Accountants & Consultants. He noted that the audit satisfies both County and PennDOT auditing requirements.

Other Business

In response to Mr. Kundrod's inquiry about the status of projects funded through the County's Municipal Infrastructure Assistance Program (MIAP), Mr. Lazzari and Mr. Zerby stated that although the grantees are not directly accountable to the CCPC, staff is in contact with pertinent municipal officials to informally monitor the progress of the projects.

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ms. Orner, seconded by Dr. Koren. Motion passed unanimously.